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Item 10 (c) of the provisional agenda*

NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION: EFFECTS OF DISASTERS ON MODERN SOCIETIES

Technical session

Programme

The technical session on the effects of disasters on modern societies has been organized by the United Nations Centre for Regional Development.

Summary. All activities of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction are recognized as being preparatory work for the twenty-first century when the world must deal with denser populations, mostly concentrated in urban areas and supported by advanced technology and modernized social systems. In this context, the first part of the session will focus on topics of natural disaster risks in modern societies from the aspects of magacity vulnerability, environmental degradation, scientific risk assessment and international cooperation, followed by a discussion of policies for natural disaster reduction in modern societies, and the development of infrastructural engineering, satellite technologies and insurance systems.

Part One. Risk of natural disasters in modern societies

Disaster management in metropolitan areas

Mr. Shinjiro Mizutani, Chairman, Aichi/Nagoya International Conference on the IDNDR, 1993

Urban environmental degradation and vulnerability to disasters

Mr. Mohan Munasinghe, Division Chief for Environmental Policy, World Bank

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Risk management and preventive planning in megacities: a scientific approach for action

Mr. Philippe Masure, International Association of Engineering Geology

Coordination and integration of international projects on risk assessment in megacities

Mr. Yoshikazu Kitagawa, Director, International Institute of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering

Comments and discussion with the participation of high-ranking personalities from selected megalopolises

Part Two. Policies for natural disaster reduction in modern societies

Megacities: vulnerability of infrastructure to natural disasters

Mr. Stuart Mustow, President, Institution of Civil Engineers/World Federation of Engineering Organizations

Application of satellite remote sensing for natural disaster reduction in developing countries

Mr. Niek Rengers, International Astronautical Federation/International Institute for Aerospace Survey and Earth Sciences (ITC)

Use of mobile satellite communications in natural disaster preparedness and emergency response

Mr. Eugene Staffa, International Mobile Satellite Organization (INMARSAT)

Role of non-life insurance in disaster management systems

Mr. Takashi Onoda, Chairman, The Marine & Fire Insurance Association of Japan

Comments and discussion with the participation of high-ranking personalities from selected megalopolises.